

The danger of rampant media consolidation is clearly evidenced by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election.

Access to the public airwaves is provided to Sinclair free of charge, and in return they are required by law to serve the public interest. However, airing an extremely biased (and questionable) attack on a presidential candidate under the guise of "news" is an abuse of that trust.

The point of regulations that are supposed to govern political advertising is to promote something resembling a level playing field. Confusing viewers so that they think they are seeing responsible reportage rather than a partisan rant and forcing member stations to participate is hardly a level playing field. Corporate in-kind contributions are supposed to be prohibited.